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ROUTINE
IN 1632030
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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WNINTEL--NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-ORCON

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CITE [redacted] (b)(3)
DIST 29 NOV 78

COUNTRY: VENEZUELA.

SUBJECT: CONTINUING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KIDNAPPING OF WILLIAM F. NIEHOUS (DOI: [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

SOURCE : [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) A FOREIGN NEWSMAN HAD RECENTLY BEEN INDIRECTLY APPROACHED BY INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING TO BE THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPERS. THIS NEWSMAN WAS INSTRUCTED TO INDICATE THE WILLINGNESS OF NIEHOUS' EMPLOYERS TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE KIDNAPPED EXECUTIVE'S RELEASE BY INCLUDING A CERTAIN CODE PHRASE IN HIS SINDICATED COLUMN. THIS PHRASE, [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3) WAS TO HAVE BEEN "SPRING IS CLEAR."

2. WHILE THE NEWSMAN'S 20 NOVEMBER COLUMN CONTAINED IN ONE FOREIGN NEWSPAPER DEALT WITH THE NIEHOUS CASE, THE CODE

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PHRASE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TEXT [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
[redacted] THE COLUMN, HOWEVER, DID INCLUDE THE MENTION OF
VARIOUS OTHER SEASONS OF THE YEAR. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
[redacted] THE POSSIBILITY
THAT THE NEWSMAN'S COLUMN REPRINTED IN SOME OTHER NEWSPAPER
DID CONTAIN THE CODE PHRASE "SPRING IS CLEAR." [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
[redacted]

3. [redacted] COMMENT: FOR INFORMATION ON THE NEWSMAN'S STORY (b)(1) (b)(3)
AS REPRINTED IN VENEZUELA, SEE EMBASSY CARACAS TELEGRAM 11184.
FOR AN EARLIER REPORT ON THE NIEHOUS CASE SEE [redacted]
[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

4. ACQ: [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
[redacted]

5. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)
[redacted]

6. WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, INR

TO FBI EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCE AND METHODS INVOLVED--NOT Rreleasable TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR CONSULTANTS--

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DISSEMINATION AND EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

[redacted] XGDS-2. (b)(3)

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